

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

4. (Amended) The peptide fragment or a series of peptide fragments of claim 1, wherein said peptide fragment or fragments (a) are recovered in fractions of molecular weight 10 kDa to 30 kDa by molecular size fractionation with membrane; (b) have structures showing isoelectric points at between pH 7 and pH 8 and at pH 8 or more in blood as a result of testing of binding to ion exchange resin; (c) show two bands at molecular weight 13 to 14 kDa and two bands at 16 to 17 kDa, the latter being a glycosylated form of the former, in non-reductive SDS-PAGE; and (d) have a band patten of 3 to 4 kDa, 7 to 9 kDa and 10 to 12 kDa in SDS-PAGE under reductive condition in addition to the bands (c).

5. (Amended) The peptide fragment or a series of peptide fragments of claim 1, wherein said peptide fragment or fragments correspond to the bands at 3 to 4 kDa, 7 to 9 kDa and 10 to 12 kDa in SDS-PAGE under reductive condition.

6. (Amended) A medicament for protecting from exacerbation of conditions of, preventing or treating diseases related to cell death, comprising as an active ingredient the peptide fragment or a series of peptide fragments having the cell death-inhibitory activity of claim 1.

8. (Amended) A medicament for protecting from exacerbation of conditions of, preventing or treating diseases related to oxidation/reduction reaction, comprising as an active ingredient the peptide fragment or a series of peptide fragments having the cell death-inhibitory activity of claim 1.

9. (Amended) A medicament for protecting from exacerbation of conditions of, preventing or treating diseases in which cells of the immune system are involved, comprising as an active ingredient the peptide fragment or a series of peptide fragments having the cell death-inhibitory activity of claim 1.

10. (Amended) An additive for cell culture comprising as an active ingredient the peptide fragment or a series of peptide fragments having the cell death-inhibitory activity of claim 1.

15. (Amended) The antibody of claim 12 wherein said peptide fragment or a series of peptide fragments (a) are recovered in fractions of molecular weight 10 kDa to 30 kDa by molecular size fractionation with membrane; (b) have structures showing isoelectric points at between pH 7 and pH 8 and at pH 8 or more in blood as a result of testing of binding to ion exchange resin; (c) show two bands at molecular weight 13 to 14 kDa and two bands at 16 to 17 kDa, the latter being a glycosylated form of the

former, in non-reductive SDS-PAGE; and (d) have a band pattern of 3 to 4 kDa, 7 to 9 kDa and 10 to 12 kDa in SDS-PAGE under reductive condition in addition to the bands in (c).

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